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Surety Against Defalcations

Now that the astounding defalcations of E. J. Smith, the San Francisco Tax Collector stand revealed, there is a great deal of discussion in the San Francisco papers cussion in the San Francisco papers things in the future. Much of what

is written, sounds exactly like some of the things that were said by the Mitchell commission, and to the Mitchell commission, when it was here, just about the time the shortages of Territorial Treasurer Wright and others were discovered. There is much of what might have beet "if a better system were in vogue," "if a system or a better system of auditing," were used. In our own case we were lectured very severely by the Mitchell commission because we had not done a good many things that undoubtedly had been left undone. Of course, in the light of what has happened to a large portion of the Mitchell commission since, we can now see a species of humor in the raps we were getting

on our knuckles, that we could not see then. As for auditing of books and accounts as a means of preventing defalcations, it cannot be said that our experience here in Hawaii has been The most efficient preparation for the so very brilliant. Our auditors, however, have usually been able to find out how much was stolen after the defalcations had been discovered.

In San Francisco complaint is made because a system of auditing and weekly public statements of the condition of the treasury, proposed about a year ago, was not adopted.

The truth is that there never was, and never will be devised, a system of fiscal arrangements that will take the place of honesty. 'The dishonest official will find means to get around any system of accounting ever devised, though of course, the better the system the more difficult it is to get around. Take the shortages in the Koloa post office lately. They show how sometimes the most brutally simple methods, will circurrient the most elaborate systems of accounts. The best safeguards against defalcations in office, public or private, are the selection of honest men, first of all, and then the relentless pursuit and prosecution of the dishonest. This is the system that the surety companies follow, and it is a system that has reduced defalcations among bank employees and similar employments to a very low minimum. Every such employe knows that if he is dishonest and it is discovered, there is no place on earth where he can hide without the danger of discovery and the certainty that if he is discovered every effort will be made to bring him to trial and punishment.

But the best surety against defalcation, public or private is the selection of honest men to handle the money.

Rattling Among The Dry Bones

The agitation for a crematory liar apathy which appears to exist III in Honolulu regarding the burial places of the city. At the meeting occossossossossossos of the Board of Health yesterday the report of Dr. Pratt contained

the usual references to corpses exposed and buried again, during the digging of new graves. This is occurring constantly. Reports filed has a firm grip on the party manage regularly with the Board will show that it is the common occurrence ment. Only let him beware of building Paraffine Paint Company. San Francisfor gravediggers to unearth coffins buried long ago and sometimes to his political machine to such perfection Ohlandt & Co., San Francisco, Cal. break them and expose the ghastly relics within. Yesterday's report as to make of it a Frankenstein, which Pacific Oil Transportation Co., San shows the exposure of a corpse buried at some time or other without may in the end as ruthlessly destroy any coffin. These cheerful preliminaries to a funeral do not seem to him as it has his enemies. attract much public concern or attention. Honolulu appears to have become accustomed to the grewsome practice of digging about among It would undoabtedly be more conthe bones of her past dead in order to find resting places for the dead of today.

Our Department

Another highly unique feature of many of our funerals is the placing great expense with the preliminaries of coffins in water. There have been some funerals at which the grave, being below the water level, was nearly full of water, so that the deceased showed a tendency to float, until obliging gravediggers stood upon the coffin and held it down while earth was thrown on. Such conditions might have been expected to arouse public indignation, but so far there has been little sign of it. The Board of Health has steadily kept up a fire of protests and has succeeded in having regulations made which are designed to prevent the general mingling of corpses. Hono-Inlu is no longer satisfied with laying the dead with their ancestors, but must needs go a step farther and bury a deceased in and among an- hold that the matter cannot be tested

Frankenstein And Party Machine

In the course of his "Gold Brick" day before yesterday, Governor Act goes into effec, there are no rights Carter, in speaking of the statements that have been made regarding the activity of Territorial employes in the preliminary party

eampaign for the control of the Republican nominating convention. good humoredly declared that he had taken no interest in the matter, and did not even know what had been done in his own precinct. He follows that the rest of the family are declared pleasantly, that the statement that this under-official activity capable also. had in it the suggestion of instruction from above, could not refer to him, because of his entire neglect of the subject.

This is all very well, and no one will find fault with the Governor for saying it, nor insist that his denial should have been more specific. At the same time, no one is deceived, nor can the Governor, by any no trouble. They can apply to Govsuch pleasantries, absolve himself from responsibility for what is being done, in effect, in his name. Everybody who knows a primary from a prayer-meeting, knows that a very large proportion of the Territorial officials and employes are active in the present political situation; that their activity is along common lines, and for a common purpose, and to a common end; that it is directed and controlled, in all essentials. as by one will; and that it is universally believed, both by those who are doing this will, and by those who are opposing it, that it is the will ested in the supervisor fight than he is of the Governor.

This may be a mistake. It may not be the will of the Governor. But if it isn't, it is the will of some one who is able to make the whole publie believe it is. If things are being done in the Governor's name, or by force of the hint that it is his desire, which he doesn't approve of, he ought to take prompt measures to preserve his good name and pre- of the county offices. Why all this vent these false pretenses. Can he afford to let the whole community dimdence? bel'eve that certain things are being done with his approval, when as a matter of fact they are not done with his approval, but by force of the misrepresentation, specific or implied, that they are?

After all, isn't this the fact, that the Governor has built up a very compact and effective political machine, which he can go off and leave, temporarily, and still it will keep right on at work? And will not this account for a phenomena that seems to puzzle the chief executive, that whereas before he came into official life there was apathy in, and neglect of, party politics by public employes, now that he has become governor, he finds it charged that there is undue party activity among his The wonder is not that there were sevappointees? As politics go, it is no discredit to the Governor that he eral explosions, but that there was not

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the taxpayers have been put to any of county government. This was andoubtedly the purpose of the Clvic Federation in taking the matter of the contest up. If the County Act is valid, it would add greatly to the ease with which it could be put into operation to have the fact determined, beyond all cavil, beforehand. If it is not valid, a determination of that fact in advance that under our system of I nadvance, that under our system of jurisprudence, courts only adjudicate real controversies, in which the subject matter is a right actually claimed interview published in the Star the or denied, and that until the County Act goes into effec, there are no rights under it which can be exercised or denied.

> One can hardly blame Governor Carter for appointing his cousins to important positions. He knows he is a good man himself and it necessarily.

> A shark fishing party suffered a long delay in starting the other day owing to the difficulty experienced in getting a dead horse. Other parties need have ernor Carter and he will give them the

> Uncle Sam as a teacher of domestic norals is one of the effects of annexation-and the Edmunds law.

> Sam Johnson says he is more interin the fight for sheriff, but he doesn't tell us whom he wants for supervisors.

It is only two days to the Republican primaries, and yet candidates are an nounced for not more than about half

With Secretary Jack in the States and the Governor on the other side of the Island, Chief Clerk Buckland seems to be the highest official left among us

It begins to look as though there was a strong movement against Consul General Miki Salto.

Classified Ads in Star.

ar taken by mjetske room San Antenin Hall last evening, Helurn to Star office and receive reward.

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one stupendous explosion, when the ex-

press train collided with the dynamite laden freight train in Pennsylvania yesterday.

There are times when the community would be in favor of giving each house unlimited power of adjournment.

One by one those in the original Taft party announce that they are not coming. Let us hope that at least Secretary Taft will come.

What has become of Senator Achl's declaration that the work of the extra session could be completed in six days? Of course the world was made in six days, but then-

Lillian Leslie seems to have known the value of money better than the man who showered it upon her. She may have played in the drama the Ellefords will give us tonight. Other People's Money."

With the Immigration building just ompleted, the improvements to the Quarantine station about to be begun and the architect here for the construction of the Army barracks, there seems to be a fairly steady stream of Uncle Sam's money flowing in.

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